Dear COM – T students,

This email is not on behalf of the COM – Tucson, the Dean’s office, Banner Health or any group (although those will of course follow!). It is just from me. I have been practicing and teaching medicine since I graduated from our own COM – Tucson in 1993. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to serve patients, students and residents at the COM – Tucson since that time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought out the best and the worst in all of us. I am most struck by the positives. Our faculty, staff, residents and students have rallied to support each other and make sure that medical education and patient care continue as able. COM – T educational staff, clerkship directors and residency program directors/staff have put themselves on-call 24/7 to address issues as they arise. I feel incredibly fortunate to work with such a dedicated team. Students have reached out to ask how they can help, and a group of your peers is volunteering to help with childcare for faculty and staff whose children are not able to attend school due to closures.

While there is great uncertainty and unrest about clinical rotations for students around the country, the dean of the COM – T, the provost and the president of the University of Arizona are assessing the situation literally hourly.

Stay tuned for updates. Thank you for all you are doing during this challenging time.

Best,

KM